

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:  
CLAIMS

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1. A light source comprising a plurality of organic electroluminescent elements one-dimensionally or two-dimensionally arrayed on the same substrate, wherein the plurality of organic electroluminescent elements emit light simultaneously.

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2. A light source according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of organic electroluminescent elements emit light of one primary color out of the three primary colors.

3. A light source according to one of Claims 1 and 2, the organic electroluminescent elements comprise optical micro-resonators.

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4. A light source according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the organic electroluminescent elements are formed on the substrate at the intersections of an anode formed in a striped pattern in a first direction and a cathode formed in a striped pattern in a second direction orthogonal to the first direction.

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5. A light source according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein luminescent sections are one-dimensionally arrayed on the substrate.

6. A display device for illuminating a display element by a light source according to any one of Claims 1 to 5.

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7. A display device according to Claim 6, wherein  $D$  is 10 times  $P$  or more, where  $P$  is a distance between the adjacent organic electroluminescent elements and  $D$  is a distance between each organic electroluminescent element and the display surface of the display element.

8. A display device according to one of Claims 6 and 7, wherein the display element is a liquid crystal display element.

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9. A display device comprising a light source comprising an organic electroluminescent element, a display element illuminated by the light source, and an optical system for

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enlarging and displaying an image displayed in the display element, wherein the organic electroluminescent element has a luminescent region having substantially the same size as that of a display area of the display element, and a pulse current is applied to the organic electroluminescent element to cause light emission.

5 10. A display device comprising a light source comprising a first organic electroluminescent element for emitting light in a red color range, a second organic electroluminescent element for emitting light in a green color range, and a third organic electroluminescent element for emitting light in a blue color range; first, second and third display elements illuminated by their corresponding organic electroluminescent elements; 10 a combining optical system for combining images displayed in the first, second, and third display elements; and an optical system for enlarging and displaying the image combined by the combining optical system, wherein the first, second, and third organic electroluminescent elements have luminescent regions with substantially the same sizes as those of display areas of the first second, and third display elements, respectively, and a 15 pulse current is applied to each of the first, second, and third organic electroluminescent elements to cause light emission.

11. A display device comprising a light source comprising a first organic electroluminescent element for emitting light in a red color range, a second organic electroluminescent element for emitting light in a green color range, and a third organic 20 electroluminescent element for emitting light in a blue color range; a combining optical system for combining light emitted from the individual organic electroluminescent elements; a display element illuminated by the light combined by the combining optical system; and an optical system for enlarging and displaying the image displayed in the display element, wherein the first, second, and third organic electroluminescent elements 25 have luminescent regions with substantially the same size as that of the display area of the

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display element, respectively, and a pulse current is applied to each of the first, second, and third organic electroluminescent elements to cause light emission.

12. A display device according to any one of Claims 9 to 11, wherein the display element is a liquid crystal display element.

5 13. A display device according to any one of Claims 9 to 11, wherein at least one of the peak current, the frequency, and the pulse width of the pulse current is controlled in order to adjust the luminance of the organic electroluminescent elements.

10 14. A display device according to one of Claims 10 and 11, wherein at least one of the peak current, the frequency, and the pulse width of the pulse current applied to each of the first, second, and third organic electroluminescent elements is controlled independently in order to adjust the color of the display image.

15 15. A display device according to any one of Claims 9 to 14, wherein the organic electroluminescent elements have optical micro-resonator structures.

16. A display device according to one of Claims 10 and 11, wherein a pulse is applied to each of the first, second, and third organic electroluminescent elements with the same timing.

17. A display device comprising a light source comprising a plurality of organic electroluminescent elements one-dimensionally or two-dimensionally arrayed on the same substrate, the plurality of organic electroluminescent elements emitting light simultaneously, a display element illuminated by the light source, and an optical system for enlarging and displaying an image displayed in the display element, wherein a pulse current is applied to the organic electroluminescent elements in the light source to cause light emission.

18. A display device comprising a first light source comprising a plurality of first organic electroluminescent elements one-dimensionally or two-dimensionally arrayed on

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the same substrate for emitting light in a red color range, the plurality of organic electroluminescent elements emitting light simultaneously, a second light source comprising a plurality of second organic electroluminescent elements one-dimensionally or two-dimensionally arrayed on the same substrate for emitting light in a green color range, the plurality of organic electroluminescent elements emitting light simultaneously, a third light source comprising a plurality of third organic electroluminescent elements one-dimensionally or two-dimensionally arrayed on the same substrate for emitting light in a blue color range, the plurality of organic electroluminescent elements emitting light simultaneously, at least one display element illuminated by the light sources comprising the organic electroluminescent elements, and an optical system for enlarging and displaying an image formed by the display element, wherein a pulse current is applied to each of the organic electroluminescent elements so that the organic electroluminescent elements in the first light source, the organic electroluminescent elements in the second light source, and the third organic electroluminescent elements in the third light source emit light.

19. A display device according to Claim 18, wherein a pulse is applied to each of the first, second, and third organic-electroluminescent elements with the same timing.

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